

(67)

Roxbury, Jan. 18, 1877

Dear Mrs Chapman:

I have forwarded by the Weymouth Express, to-day, H. M.'s Autobiography and your supplemental volume, hoping I have not put you to any inconvenience by not returning them at an earlier date, and proffering you many thanks for so kindly allowing me to peruse them in advance of their publication.

The result is a higher appreciation, if possible, of the intellectual strength, solid understanding, conscientious integrity, fearless independence of thought and expression, courageous "heretical" non-conformity, far-reaching humanity, intuitional grasp, varied knowledge, and literary fertility of that extraordinary woman. I was not aware of the extent of her writings, or the wide range of her investigations pertaining to political economy, statesmanship, government, mental and moral philosophy, psychology, history, biography, international law, philanthropy, well-founded reform, &c., &c. It is not doing any injustice to the eminent women of the world to place her at the head, in comprehensiveness of mind and devotion to the general welfare, working through numerous channels, and discussing with masterly ability questions and measures which for ages have been exclusively assigned to the male sex. Then, privately and socially, how admirable her characteristics! — But all this is superfluous to you.

I had high expectations as to your portion of the forthcoming work, but these have been transcended by the manner in which you have discharged so delicate and responsible a task. Your appreciation of H. M. is



in no instance exaggerated; and you evince excellent judgment, rare critical acumen, profound philosophic insight, united with personal and historical fidelity. It was fortunate for you that you had such a trust committed to you, and fortunate for H. M. that she selected you to complete that portion of her life not contained in her Autobiography. I congratulate <sup>you</sup> on the successful achievement of a most arduous performance.

I am profoundly grateful to you for the kind and generous manner in which reference is made to myself and my anti-slavery labors in the closing volume. The thought has never come into my mind how I should or might be estimated in my own day or generation, or by those coming after me, if remembered at all; but it is none the less gratifying to me to be recognized by two such women as H. M. and M. W. C. as entitled to their esteem and approbation; and the favorable judgment of all true friends of liberty and equal rights.

I am pleased to see my letter to Miss Jane Martineau printed with others, especially those from H. M.'s maid-servants, paying a just and sincere tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Of course, that portion of the work which relates to H. M.'s views of theology and a future life will elicit more or less invective and traducement from a sectarian religious press; but the best answer to it all will be

"For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight;

<sup>His</sup>  
He can't be wrong whose life is in the right."

Judging by this test, H. M. is surely entitled to a conspicuous place in



"the household of saints." Any how, "it is a small thing to be judged of man's judgment."

Though - through much over working and years of bodily prostration, I think she seemed to covet, at last, "the sleep that knows no waking;" my faith is absolute that she "still lives," with all her faculties unimpaired, and there as here eager to know and serve the true and the right.

With kindest regards to you all

W<sup>m</sup> Lloyd Garrison

P. S. You need not trouble yourself to return the basket, but keep it.  
Miss Southwick sends her warm regards to the whole family.

